

Pakistan, Afghanistan clash

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's Foreign Ministry summoned Afghanistan's senior diplomat in Islamabad on Sunday, charging that Kabul had launched missiles and dropped bombs on Pakistani territory. The protest came a day after Pakistan's envoy in Kabul was summoned by the Afghan Foreign Ministry for the second time in a week over Islamabad's alleged interference on the side of Afghan guerrilla forces. A Pakistani Foreign Ministry statement said a strong protest was lodged with Kabul's chargé d'affaires over two ground-to-ground missile attacks during October and an incursion by three Afghan warplanes which dropped four bombs. A child was killed and two women were injured when one missile struck the Landi Khana area of Pakistan's tribal Khyber Agency near the border with Afghanistan, the statement said. On Saturday, the Pakistani envoy in Kabul was handed a protest note charging that a Pakistani helicopter flew Afghan guerrillas into southern Afghanistan on an inspection tour of rebel posts, Kabul's official Bakhsh news agency reported. Last week, the Pakistani chargé d'affaires was summoned to receive a protest over what the Afghan government said were plans by the Pakistani army and intelligence to destroy three hydroelectric dams in Afghanistan.

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PLO adviser welcomes Washington as venue

NICOSIA (R) — An advisor to Yasser Arafat said on Sunday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would welcome Washington as a venue for the next phase of the Middle East peace process. Bassam Abu Sharif added that the PLO would also agree to deployment of U.S. troops in occupied Arab territories if that would bring about an Israeli withdrawal. "The Palestine Liberation Organisation welcomes Washington as a venue for bilateral talks (between Israel and the Arabs)," he said in a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia. Mr. Abu Sharif said the PLO had agreed to a proposal from President George Bush for Palestinian self-government in a year as a "transitional step towards the final phase leading to self-determination for the Palestinian people." But he added that "to accomplish the first phase" Israel should withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967. "We will suggest deploying U.N. or multilateral forces to replace Israeli troops. But if Israel refuses we will agree to forces from the two powers sponsoring the conference (U.S. and the Soviet Union) or American forces," he said. Abu Sharif said the PLO would seek a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories along the lines of the South African withdrawal that was part of the U.N.-sponsored independence settlement in Namibia.

Jordan Times

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Gonzalez meets Ashrawi, Hussein

MADRID (Petra) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Sunday met with members of the Palestinian steering committee, Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Al Hussein, and reviewed with them the latest developments at the Middle East peace conference, bilateral talks and Spain's role and that of the European Community (EC) in supporting the peace process. The meeting was attended by the Spanish foreign minister.

Warplanes show off in UAE

DUBAI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) defence minister Sunday inaugurated a major international air show concentrated on warplanes but stressed the need for peace in the Middle East. "We support the Palestinian cause, and we want peace," Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalid Al Maktoum told reporters after kicking off Dubai '91 International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition, the first aerospace trade show held in the Gulf since the end of the Gulf war. He said it was not hypocritical to hold an aerospace show while Arab-Israeli peace talks were under way in Madrid "because defense is a part of supporting the peace."

Anatolian asks Turkey to recognise its independence

ANKARA (R) — Azerbaijani Prime Minister Hasan Hasanov, starting a visit to Turkey Sunday, told its wanted Ankara to recognise the independence of his Turkic-speaking Soviet republic. "Turkey and Iran do not recognise our independence, the world will not also recognise us," the Anatolian news agency quoted Mr. Hasanov as saying. "Besides Turkey, Azerbaijan wants its independence to be recognised by all countries." Azerbaijani borders Iran and the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan has a border with Turkey. The republic, which has religious, ethnic and cultural ties with Turkey, declared independence from the Soviet Union in August. Turkey said at the time that Azerbaijan leaders had asked Ankara not to offer immediate recognition.

Qaddafi greets with Macedonian leader

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi met Sunday with the president of the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for discussions on improving cooperation, the official Libyan news agency SANA reported. The discussions, monitored in Rome, did not give any details of the talks between Colonel Qaddafi and Vice-Governor.

Greek Cypriot aid in north

NICOSIA (AP) — A 20-year-old man who took his family he was returning to his occupied village in the breakaway state in north Cyprus is in custody there, officials said Sunday. Marios Stougaros was remanded for eight days by a court in a court in Turkish-Cypriot Nicosia, U.N. officials said. Mr. Stougaros left home on Thursday evening in his father's car, leaving a note that he was going to his village of Ayios Georges near the seaport of Famagusta. That area, like the rest of the northern third of the island, has been under Turkish occupation since 1974. The car was found by police on Friday near a National Guard post at the so-called "green line" in Nicosia.

Afghan-Soviet trade pact

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan and the Soviet Union signed a trade pact on Sunday in which Moscow pledged to continue food deliveries to Kabul, state-run Kabul Radio said. The protocol, covering 1991/92, was signed in Kabul by Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Alexander Baskakov and Afghan Planning Minister Ghulam Mohiuddin Sishez. Afghan President Najibullah held talks with Mr. Baskakov and urged the Soviet Union to speed up negotiations to sign a trade pact.

Afghan natural gas

Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli talks 'businesslike'

No agreement yet on venue for further meetings; U.S. and Soviet mediation sought

Syrians seen seeking to ensure continuity of conference and climate for Arab coordination

Special from Madrid

ARAB-ISRAELI bilateral talks got off the ground Sunday with two rounds of negotiations between a 10-member joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and an Israeli team made up of seven members. Talks between Lebanon and Israel started later and between Syria and Israel were expected to follow Sunday evening.

The Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli talks, which lasted a few hours, were concentrated on procedural issues but they failed to produce agreement on the venue and date for follow up peace negotiations, which should tackle substance rather than form.

In the morning session, held at the Palacio de la Moncloa, the two sides exchanged opening remarks, in which they pledged to pursue the talks with open minds and hearts, and discussed the two procedural questions of where and when to continue the negotiations and in what form.

The Jordanians and Palestinians insisted on continuing the talks in Madrid while Israel expressed opposition to the idea, saying bilateral negotiations should be conducted in the area. For instance in Aqaba and Eilat, as far as Jordan is concerned, and at Ras Naqura as far as Lebanon is concerned.

Neither in this round, nor in the afternoon session could the two sides reach agreement, apparently leaving it up to the two co-sponsors, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, to determine the venue and the date for the next round.

Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali,

head of the Jordanian side to the joint delegation, was meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last night to see what the U.S. intended to do to break the deadlock.

During the afternoon session, the Jordanians and Palestinians had indicated to the Israelis that they might be willing to entertain going to another European capital, such as Paris or London or Lausanne, to hold the meetings. But, according to reliable sources, the Americans were moving to suggest Washington as the location. The Soviets have reportedly been opposed to Washington, but reports were emerging last night that they might eventually accept it if multilateral regional talks would take place in Moscow as a counterbalance to having one capital of the two co-sponsors being the venue of the talks.

The other procedural issue that eluded agreement in the first session was an Israeli demand to keep together the two sides of the joint delegation when discussing all issues on the agenda. Both the Jordanians and the Palestinians had objected, since the Israeli demand contradicted earlier understanding on the matter. And it was not until the negotiations emerged from their second meeting that the Israelis indicated that they were dropping their condition thus averting further disagreement between the two sides.

In his statement to the press in the afternoon, Dr. Majali described the meeting as businesslike.

(Continued on page 2)

The following is the text of the joint statement issued by the Israeli and the Jordanian-Palestinian peace delegations following nearly five hours of talks Sunday. The statement was read by Jordanian team leader Abdul Salam Majali:

"In the name of God the Compassionate, the Merciful.

"The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation met today to start direct negotiations on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. These negotiations will be conducted along two tracks: A Palestinian-Israeli track and a Jordanian-Israeli track.

"The talks were held in a good, businesslike atmosphere. Matters discussed were procedural issues at the talks, which it is hoped will take place soon.

"The parties expressed their views on the possible venue of the negotiations. Consultations will continue in this regard, as well as on other matters pertaining to the negotiations."

Elieakim Rubinstein of Israel: "I would like just to add that we basically agree with the statement. We would only like to point out that the negotiations on the matters pertaining to the Palestinians will be conducted first, in the first phase, on an interim self-government arrangement as you already know, and I would like to thank my friends here."

Haider Abdal Shafi of the Palestinians: "I would like to say here that we reserve the Palestinians' position about the priorities in the negotiations."

Israeli shelling of Lebanon eases; tension remains high

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli artillery shelled hit South Lebanon villages for the sixth day running Sunday but Lebanese security sources said the bombardment had eased.

A military showdown between guerrillas and Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies remained only a trigger squeeze away, with both sides keeping their forces in combat positions.

No casualties were reported in the shelling of villages in the Iqlim Al Toufah and Nabatiyah districts used by pro-Iranian Hizballah (Party of God) guerrillas as a springboard for hit-and-run attacks on Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone."

Thousands of villagers, forced to flee by days of shelling and broadcast warnings from the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, began returning to their homes, police reported.

Many spent Saturday night with relatives or huddled in mosques and churches in Sidon, Lebanon's southern port city.

They began returning in small car convoys to villages north of the "security zone" despite heavy rains.

By mid-morning, more than 15,000 had reached the South Lebanon town of Nabatiyah and the adjacent village of Kfar Rumman, police said.

Many families fled after the SLA broadcast a message on its

radio station Saturday saying Israel wanted about 100,000 people cleared from some 100 villages within 1.5 kilometres of the northern edge of the "security zone."

The zone, covering about 1,100 square kilometres, was carved out by Israel in South Lebanon in 1985 to protect its northern settlements.

Mr. Shafiq was remanded for eight days by a court in Ayios Georges near the seaport of Famagusta. That area, like the rest of the northern third of the island, has been under Turkish occupation since 1974. The car was found by police on Friday near a National Guard post at the so-called "green line" in Nicosia.

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Peres, Weizman hopeful Madrid talks open way for coexistence

CAIRO (AP) — Two prominent Israeli politicians, Shimon Peres and Ezra Weizman, expressed hope in separate telephone interviews with a leading Egyptian newspaper that the Madrid talks would eventually lead to peaceful Arab-Israeli coexistence.

In the interviews, carried by Al Ahram, Mr. Peres, the head of the Israeli opposition Labour Party, also said his group would support Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir if he opted for peace and the move resulted in the withdrawal of the ultra-rightist religious parties from his government.

Mr. Peres said his party would vote for peace in the Israeli parliament.

"I firmly stand by peace and will do anything in my power to support the peace process," Mr. Peres said.

He said the Madrid peace conference has actually succeeded in achieving five important results.

Exhibitors target Gulf at 'rebuild Kuwait' show

BAHRAIN (R) — Foreign companies at a "rebuild Kuwait" exhibition which opened in Bahrain Saturday say they hope it will help them attract business from the entire Gulf area.

Most of the exhibitors interviewed at the show — the biggest of its kind ever held in the region — said they wanted to expand their markets in Kuwait's Gulf Arab neighbours.

"If we were coming here only to rebuild Kuwait we would be quite disappointed because it's not such a big country... and there isn't that much to rebuild in Kuwait," said Giacomo Lamio of the Italian Foreign Trade Institute, who heads the Italian delegation.

Organisers say 1,000 companies from 43 countries are taking part and about 20,000 visitors are expected. Products on show range from building materials and industrial equipment, to furniture, home security systems, and ice-cream machines.

It has 160 companies at the six-day event, the largest number of any country. British firms have rented the largest amount of floor space.

"This was a good opportunity for Italian companies to widen their contacts in the Gulf area or to introduce themselves if they were not already here," said Mr. Lamio.

Regional carriers Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways said they had laid on extra flights to shuttle about 1,000 Kuwaiti businessmen to and from Bahrain during the first few days of the show.

But exhibitors said they had seen few Kuwaitis on Saturday.

"I've had three good enquiries from Saudi Arabia but there don't seem to be many Kuwaitis here — I've not met a single one," Enad Turkman from U.K.-based shelving firm Dexion said.

Companies from China, and from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland are also attending the show in what for many is their first visit to the region.

Kuwait was the only Gulf state to have long-standing ties with the former communist countries of Eastern Europe. Most of the others began establishing relations last year.

"First, all the region's countries are now very near to achieving peace; second, Israel has recognised the Palestinian negotiators, a matter that never happened before; third, the Arab World is now close to recognising Israel; fourth, the two superpowers and the rest of the world have become involved in trying to create a new reality in the region."

The former prime minister said the fifth result is that "we are not only speaking about achieving peace but we also are talking about bringing the region to a new era of economic cooperation, improving the standard of living of its people and solving the problem of (Palestinian) refugees."

Mr. Peres said his party's peace plan calls for a halt in building more Jewish settlements on the occupied Arab territories, and end to Arab economic boycott of Israel and exchanging land for peace.

"I wish to see our relations with Syria pattered according to the example of our relations with Egypt including solutions concerning territories," Mr. Weizman said in an apparent reference to the Sinai Peninsula which Israel returned to Egypt as stipulated in the peace treaty, the only one between an Arab and Israel.

"I wish to see Israeli aircraft arriving in Damascus and Syrian planes in Israel. I wish to see land roads connecting us to Beirut and



Shimon Peres

a joint communication network enabling us to talk like you did when you called me at home from Cairo," Mr. Weizman said.

"I wish to be able to contact friends in Damascus, Amman and Beirut," he said.

"We cannot achieve full peace with Syria without returning the Golan Heights to her as we did when we returned Sinai to Egypt," he said.

Both Mr. Peres and Mr. Weizman said the problem of East Jerusalem could be solved on a religious and humanitarian basis but offered no specific solution.

"This is a precondition before

Failed Arrow missile test reported; project delayed

TEL AVIV (AP) — A recent test of the Israeli Arrow missile has failed, significantly delaying the U.S.-funded project that has been described as a key element in Israel's future defence, Israeli reports said Sunday.

The Arrow, reportedly being developed at a cost of up to \$500 million, is designed to bring down missiles like the Scuds fired at Israel by Iraq during the Gulf war.

Newspapers reported that leaders of the Arrow project were "confused" by the malfunction, which the papers said followed two previous failed test flights.

"There was indeed a small difficulty which is now under review," said Phil Herman, spokesman for the Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) which is developing the missile. He did not elaborate.

During last Wednesday's test, "a lot of data was collected. The test will assist in further development of the project. The launch is considered useful," Mr. Herman said in an interview.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens, an aeronautics expert, was asked about the reported failure on Israel army radio.

"You did not hear me say it

failed," he said. "The Arrow is a development project. Those who imagine that each test will do exactly what we think it would, don't understand anything about development."

The goal of the tests is to see what are the faults... in order to improve the missile," Mr. Arens said.

The missile was test-fired from a vessel of central Israel at another missile designed to imitate an incoming ballistic weapon, three leading Israeli dailies reported.

In Wednesday's test, operators soon lost control of the Arrow and exploded it in mid-air, the report said.

The daily Haaretz, which carried the most detailed report, said there had been a similar failure during the three launches, with the missile stopping its relay of flight data to a ground control station.

This time, it stopped broadcasting within seconds of the launch, Haaretz said, adding IAI engineers were working "around the clock" to locate the source of the malfunction.

Haaretz said some U.S. Congress members and Pentagon officials are pointing at the third failed launch to prove that Israel

is discussing those issues.

"We are trying to do what is possible at this stage. What is very important for us, however, is linking bilateral negotiations to the Madrid conference."

It seems that the Syrians had put off attendance of their first series of talks with the Israelis, originally scheduled for the same time as the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting with the Israeli delegation, in order to keep that link.

According to Arab delegates and observers here, the Syrian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa has been insisting not only on giving the Madrid conference a sense of continuity but also on ensuring that all the Arab teams meet simultaneously with their Israeli counterparts at the same place.

"Syria's strategy is to sing for the gallery back home, and to keep Arab mediators, especially from Saudi Arabia, on their toes," one Arab observer said. "But Syrian moves are not getting Syrians very good press," he insisted. "You only have to look at how many times Yosi Ben Aharon's statement was repeated by television and the press." The observer was referring to that statement which Mr. Ben Aharon, head of the Israeli team negotiating with the Syrians, made after the Syrian delegation did not show up for the morning meeting with the Israelis. In his remarks, the Israeli negotiator said the absence of the Syrians was a further signal from Damascus that it does not want peace

amongst themselves, the Arabs do not agree on where the bilaterals should be held — except perhaps for Madrid. The Palestinians, for example, are against going to Rhodes, because, in the words of Faisal Husseini, it does not bring good memories to them. Cairo is the same thing, and the Israelis are opposed to it too. The Syrians will not go to Turkey, because of their border dispute. The Israelis do not like Paris and they think Washington is too far for their decision-making process. The Americans and the Israelis do not want Geneva because the U.N. is there. The Palestinians are against going to any country that might not give visas to certain

advisers or representatives of theirs, especially those from the PLO. And both the Syrians and the Palestinians are apprehensive about Washington because of the presence of a strong Israeli lobby and the pro-Israeli congress there.

In Arab-Israeli talks, only questions of form, and no issues of substance have come up so far. Mr. Husseini, leader of the Palestinian steering committee, said there has been talk about halting the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, but no progress has been achieved so far. "The Israelis have rejected a proposal for halting settlements in exchange for ending the Arab economic boycott against Israel," an official said. It borders on being a comedy, given that each Arab side is holding its own talks with the Israelis on the question of the venue, and each might agree on a separate location, not in tune with the other."

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In their first meeting yesterday, the Jordanians and the Palestinians got to know each other after Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafiq, the head of the Palestinian side, asked the Israeli members of the delegation to introduce themselves. They did and during the half-hour coffee break afterwards, they shook hands with their counterparts and exchanged smiles. Camera took pictures of the historic encounter.

Apart from Dr. Majali, the Jordanian team to Sunday's talks included Awad Khaldi, Walid

Al-Husseini, and Yousif Ammeh.

Madrid talks

(Continued from page 1)

"Matters discussed involved procedure in the (further) talks which, it is hoped, will take place soon," he said. "Consultations will continue about the venue and about other matters."

Israel's chief delegate Elyakim Rubinstein said the sides agreed to a two-track approach in the talks, one dealing with Israeli-Jordanian issues and the other with Israeli-Palestinian questions.

Israel had insisted on a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to avoid signalling acceptance of a separate Palestinian nationhood.

Mr. Rubinstein said the first stage of a peace settlement would be to agree interim arrangements giving Palestinians in the occupied territories a measure of self-rule.

Asked how the sides will keep in touch, Mr. Rubinstein said: "We'll find a way."

Chief Palestinian delegate Haidar Abdul Shafiq said the Palestinians had expressed reservations about the priorities of the negotiations.

Dr. Majali had earlier told the Jordan Times that the first session was "encouraging and took place in a positive atmosphere."

He denied that there had been prior agreement between the parties concerned over the procedural issues that were discussed, saying the round of talks in the morning was totally devoted to

the search for Jesus Christ of Letter- Day Sales Tel. 823624, 654902. Church of Nazareth Tel. 765091.

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It will be cold and partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered showers associated with thunderstorms at times. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba it will be partly cloudy with scattered showers. The strength of rain and winds will be southerly fresh and seas rough.

Amman 11 / 18
Aqaba 20 / 28
Deserts 11 / 20
Jordan Valley 18 / 25

Yarmouk 10 / 19
Yanbu 18 / 26

Amman 11 / 18
Aqaba 20 / 28
Deserts 11 / 20
Jordan Valley 18 / 25

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Home News

Mohammad's Army trial to resume today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The trial of the Mohammad's Army clandestine group by the State Security Court is scheduled to resume today with military judge Yousef Al Faouri presiding.

The last court session was held last Thursday during which a number of the 18-member group accused of conducting terrorist activities gave their testimonies regarding the weapons found at their homes.

Some of the accused admitted that their earlier statements given to the police during interrogation were only partly correct, except for 19-year-old Mustafa Saleman who gave full confession about his involvement in the group's operations.

Mr. Saleman said that he was involved in some of these operations as far back as the middle of last year.

Mr. Saleman said that he was trained in the manufacture of molotov bombs and arms by Nabil Abu Harith, his neighbour who had returned from Afghanistan.

He also admitted that he had accompanied one of the accused, Fuad Dananeh, when he planted an explosive in a car belonging to an army officer.



SCHOLARLY DONATION — The Embassy of India in Amman Sunday presented a number of books and specialised references in scientific fields as a gift to the University of Jordan. The books were presented by Ambassador K. Gajendra Singh to university president Fawzi Gharaibeh in a special ceremony at the university library. The books included 257 titles in engineering, agricultural, cultural and historical fields. The books were written mostly by Indian authors having

long teaching experience at Indian and foreign universities. Accepting the books, Mr. Gharaibeh appreciated the gesture and hoped for greater cooperation between the educational institutions of India and Jordan. The books were donated under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scheme, which was launched in 1964 and covers over 70 countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and some European countries.

Union members assail federation for failing to address worker's grievances

By Odeh Odeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of 17 labour unions in Jordan have been complaining about the failure of the Central Council of the Federation of Labour Unions in Jordan to hold meetings over the past three months to discuss issues of concern to the labour movement in the country.

In its 37-year history, the labour movement has not failed to hold regular weekly meetings to discuss issues which they said are now accumulating due to the rising unemployment.

The return of tens of thousands of workers from Kuwait and the Gulf area, the decline in the wages of work-

ers, the arbitrary dismissals of workers by employers and the soaring cost of living are among the pressing issues which require debates and solutions, labour, union member said.

According to Mazen Ma'aita, a member of the 94-member Central Council, the failure to hold meetings over the past three months is due to the fact that Central Committee members have been busily preparing for union elections. He admitted, however, that a great deal of the problems related to labour, are outstanding and that many of the cases have been raised at the State Industrial Court.

Sudki Fugaha, another Central Council member, attributed the failure to hold the regular meetings to disputes

among the Central Council members about opening the door for more workers to acquire membership. Mr. Fugaha said that disputes among the council members led to the intervention of the former labour minister, which further delayed the meetings.

Mousa Qweider, one of the federation founders and member since 1954, said that he believed the Central Council did not convene because some of its members were trying to escape dealing with pressing issues which have been accumulating. The absence of the Central Council meetings deals a devastating blow to the labour movement in the Kingdom, he added.

But according to Akram Abu Zeinah, another Central Council member, the failure to

convene the regular meetings was due to the numerous difficulties facing the labour movement like the poor wages and social security benefits. He said that the absence of the Central Council from the scene opened the door to employers to act arbitrarily against the workers, thus further weakening the labour movement.

Wasef Imrani, another Central Council member, accused the federation president, Khalil Abu Khorma, of shortcomings and failing to shoulder the responsibility of helping workers.

But Mr. Khorma replied by saying that he was abroad most of the past three months and had wished his deputy, Haider Rashid, held the regular meetings in his absence.

Environmentalists call for legislation to stem the spread of pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — A weeklong symposium for media representatives organised by the Jordan Society for Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP), in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Information Ministry, concluded Sunday with a call for enacting new legislation on the environment and standard specification for environmental pollution.

Participants came up with a number of recommendations designed to promote environmental awareness and to fight pollution. The symposium called for setting up a higher committee "to be entrusted with monitoring the environmental situation in Jordan. It stressed the importance of giving media people access to information from its sources in order to ensure accuracy and credibility of information.

The participants also called for assigning more space in the various media and communication channels to enhance public participation in environmental issues and promote awareness about environmental concerns.

Participants discussed over ten working papers on the environment. Taking part in the symposium were 40 journalists and media representatives.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Iraqi art exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery of Art and Culture, Gardens Street.
★ A special season of antique lithographs, engravings, folio-illustrations and maps, 18th & 19th century prints of Palestine, Jordan — the Mideast as well as orientalist scenes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter. Continental.

Economic restructuring programme will not result in higher fuel prices, government officials say

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government is not planning to increase fuel prices as part of an economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a senior government source said Sunday.

"We have decided that fuel prices will not be increased, but other measures are being contemplated," the source told the Jordan Times. "These measures will be announced soon."

Officials have said that regardless of the IMF "recommendations" included in the restructuring programme, the government itself felt that there is a need to overhaul the entire system of subsidies and prices as well as other market factors which could be influenced by government actions.

"There are many situations in Jordan where the approach is lopsided and these have to

be corrected," said a senior official.

The official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said the government was soon expected to announce rises in prices of "some commodities" but did not give details. It was believed that the items covered will mostly include imported products.

The disclosure that the government is not planning to increase fuel prices sets to rest widespread apprehension based on the argument that the domino effect of fuel price hikes will lead to increase in the cost of living.

Available details of a recent round of discussions between the government and an IMF/World Bank delegation had indicated that fuel prices could be targeted for increase.

Economists say that under a complex system based on a predetermined range of prices of all types of oil, the government extends an indirect form

of subsidy for fuel.

"It is very difficult to determine the actual amount of subsidies for fuel since it depends on the actual market prices of oil," said one economist who closely follows the Kingdom's energy policy.

"Low prices of one type of imported oil marketed at a higher price makes up for the difference in revenues from another type with higher prices but sold at lower prices," he explained. "The government steps in to compensate for these differences."

In view of the relative stability of oil prices, the volume of present government subsidies for fuel "could not be very high," he added.

Jordan is getting almost all of its oil needs from Iraq under an exemption granted to the Kingdom from the international embargo imposed on that country for its invasion of Kuwait last year. The exemption was granted by the United Nations Sanctions Committee,

which monitors the embargo on Iraq.

No money is changing hands in the Jordanian import of Iraqi oil since Baghdad is not paying its debts to Amman incurred during the 1980-81 Iran-Iraq war.

Other "adjustments" envisaged by the government to reduce the fiscal budget deficit include higher tariffs for long-distance calls "for certain countries," and a "revised slate" for water and electricity charges," according to one of the sources.

"The revision will take into full consideration a reasonable level of monthly consumption of an average family," said the source.

"Consumptions above this level will be categorised into slab and higher charges to be levied accordingly."

"It is one way for ensuring that the low-income group whose consumption is traditionally of an average level, is not affected by the hikes," he explained.

CBJ reviewing financial laws; urges banks to merge

Deposit guarantee institution under study



Dr. Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi

those of the neighbouring Arab countries, and also due to the presence of a large number of banks in the country.

It is imperative that banks merge so that they can survive the present difficulties, Dr. Nabulsi added. Mergers, he said, offer banks a greater margin of operations and increases their profits.

In 1989, the CBJ had decided to merge the now dissolved Petra Bank with the Jordan Commercial Bank which was running into difficulties, but later decided to merge the Jordan Gulf Bank with the Al Mashreq Bank, whose headquarters in Beirut had been destroyed.

With reference to CBJ's future plans, Dr. Nabulsi said that the CBJ was re-examining Jordanian banking laws and financial legislation in order to modernise them or replace them with new legislation that can cater to the new developments in the local and international banking and economic fields.

In a lecture delivered to the participants in a training seminar organised by the Arab Institute for Banking Studies in Amman, Dr. Nabulsi said that the CBJ has been encouraging banks to merge and financial companies to transform themselves into banks. At the same time, the CBJ has been offering technical assistance to firms wanting to achieve that goal.

Dr. Nabulsi said that mergers will enlarge the capital and open the way for further investments in Jordanian development projects.

The CBJ's current drive to

modernise banking operations in Jordan is mainly aimed at providing protection to public deposits and enabling financial institutions and banks to increase their investments in the country, Dr. Nabulsi said.

He referred to the weakness of the Jordanian banking system in the early 1980s and said that it can be attributed to the stagnant Jordanian economy along with the banking crisis.

Royal decree endorses law changing fees

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal decree has been issued endorsing the regulation on collection of nationality fees, which was recently approved by the cabinet.

Under the regulation, the Civil Registration and Passport Department in Jordan and the Jordanian embassies and consulates abroad will collect the following fees from people applying to get Jordanian nationality or abandon it:

— JD 60 for applying to acquire Jordanian nationality in accordance with Article 4 of the law, — JD 200 for applying to get Jordanian nationality under Article 5 of the law, — JD 200 for applying for the restoration of Jordanian nationality by those who relinquished it earlier as set out under Article 17 of the law, — JD 100 from an Arab woman married to a Jordanian or abandoned it:

— JD 20 for applying to acquire Jordanian nationality in accordance with Article 4 of the law, — JD 40 for applying to acquire Jordanian nationality under Article 5 of the law, — JD 50 for applying to get Jordanian nationality in accordance with Article 12 of the law, — JD 50 for applying to relinquish Jordanian nationality under Article 16 of the law, — JD 100 for applying to relinquish the Jordanian nationality under Articles 15 and 17.

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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Parallel priorities

JORDAN'S ATTENTION during the last four days was rightly focused on the opening of the Madrid peace conference. All Jordanians, including the government, were glued to their TV sets closely following speeches, rebuttals and press conferences. This is understandable since the concern of every Jordanian remains the attainment of peace and the restoration of Arab rights and occupied land.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber had to take a break from Madrid and rush to Brussels to attend to another of Jordan's urgent concerns, the foreign debt problem. Many people, of course, pin hope on the Madrid conference to bring peace and peace, in turn, bringing funds. But this may be a far shot; peace will take time to materialise and funds may take longer to arrive. Meanwhile, the country has to grapple with debt, unemployment, lack of housing, food imports, lack of water, maintenance of its infrastructure, education, health, and last but certainly not the least democracy.

It is the belief of many people in this country that our search for peace should not be an impediment to the search for urgent, short term and long term, solutions for our domestic problems. Although many people are rightly placing great hopes on the peace process, one should not forget that if, God forbid, peace efforts failed all other national sentiments will immediately surface and pose greater challenges to us and our future.

On the economic and financial front, for example, the country is required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on behalf of the creditors, to make structural adjustments in the economy. These adjustments are long overdue. Debt or no debt, Jordan is in dire need of an economic perestroika. Subsidies, for one, must be thought over. Privatisation, long on the agenda of government, should be enacted. Import/export restrictions should be eased. Government bureaucracy must be scaled down. In short we need to deregulate.

Jordan cannot tackle its problems one at a time. If we did so it will take us hundreds of years to get rid of only part of these problems. While our fellow countrymen are working hard at Madrid in pursuit of regional peace, other teams should be working as hard here at home to tackle our domestic issues. If we could field a team of fine Jordanian men who could handle our most difficult concern at Madrid we surely can form similar teams at home who could deal with our other problems as effectively. In our euphoria for peace we should create within our society equal euphoria for other issues.

There is no denying that peace will usher in many positive developments. But peace has eluded us for a long time, and although indications of a breakthrough are positive, we cannot and should not sit and wait for it to catch us unaware. We must act now.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FOLLOWING the diplomatic, political and informational defeat dealt to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over the past few days in Madrid, the head of the Jewish state chose to make up for such big loss by launching a fresh act of aggression on areas in southern Lebanon, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The paper said Mr. Shamir resorted to such an act with the hope of creating complications for the negotiators in Madrid and provoke the Arab delegates into walking out of the conference room in protest against Israel's continued barbaric measures. The attack on Lebanon is clearly one more facet of the Jewish state's aggressive nature and its desire to undermine the peace process, said the paper. It said that the fresh aggression in southern Lebanon could be the introduction to further acts and could create dangerous situations that might sabotage the whole peace process altogether. For this reason, added the daily, the United States and the Soviet Union, co-sponsors of the current Madrid peace party, should take a firm stand against Israel, preventing its extremist leaders from having further dangerous adventures that are obviously detrimental to the prospects of peace. If the Israelis get away with such atrocities, they could be tempted to commit more barbaric actions in the occupied Palestinian lands and in the holy places so that to seriously provoke the whole Arab Nation into abandoning the quest for genuine peace, the paper warned. It said that by committing the fresh acts of aggression in Lebanon, Israel is throwing down the gauntlet in defiance of the two superpowers which are co-sponsoring the peace conference. The world community, the paper added, must not allow Mr. Shamir to escape the implementation of the international legitimacy.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday directed attention to the victims of the mining industry in Jordan, citing the tragic death of five lorry drivers who were buried alive at the phosphate mine of Hassa in southern Jordan last month. Once the five drivers' funeral was over everything returned to normal at the mine, with the Phosphate Mines Company refraining from taking a single step to save the rest of the drivers, workers and miners tragic incident, in the future, according to Nazih. The writer said that if things are left as they are and the company does not take any measure to address the situation, more and more people are bound to fall and meet a tragic end. He said that there are numerous examples about previous hands or feet being amputated or causing the loss of workers sight or hearing. The company, he demanded, should take measures to deal with all occupational hazards facing the miners and other workers affiliated to the phosphate mining industry so as to protect precious lives and to stop showing increasing desire to extract the largest possible quantities of phosphate rock without giving due regard to human life. The writer demanded that sufficient guarantees be offered by the company to the workers and provision be made for their families.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

The West can make or break communism

China is the only remaining strong bastion of communism in the world. As long as it remains strong and kicking, there will always be fear that the defunct ideology can make a comeback. As a matter of fact there were attempts to liquidate this last fortress of communism when a revolt took place in Tiananmen Square in Peking in the summer of 1989. The same forces that were behind the Chinese eruption were also behind the Soviet elements that tried the aborted coup against the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and ushered in an entirely new era in the Soviet Union. No doubt such anti-communist forces will zero in on China for fear that it may still serve as a springboard for the revival of communism in the world.

China can be expected to offer stiff resistance to all efforts that aim to introduce Western-style democracy. In many ways the country's stage of development, both material and intellectual, can be characterised as belonging to the Soviet era, perhaps that of the late leader Nikita Khrushchev. In other words, the Chinese people have not yet reached the level of politicisation and

economic development that is active and deep enough to assure the success of pluralistic democracy. What happened in Moscow may succeed in Peking some two decades ahead, but not before. Meanwhile, China will have all the time it needs to modernise its ideology in order to thwart any future designs on it. This respite may be ample enough, especially if China can succeed in polarising the developing world under its wings as the only spokesman for the underdog, just as the Soviet Union succeeded in doing so during the last four decades. In theory, this may appear possible especially if the West alienates the poor countries of the world both economically and politically. If, on the other hand, the new international order that Washington is spearheading across the surface of the globe proves to be favourable to the underdeveloped world as well and is not characterised as a form of neo-colonialism, then China's efforts to polarise the weaker countries of the world would be in vain. According to this worst scenario, China would end up being a lonely aging lion whose time and relevancy had gone for ever.

The other smaller communist posts like Cuba and North Korea will have only a marginal effect on the international course of communism. They are at best mere pawns in a high stake political game. Such probable scenarios may be true as long as the economies of the Western countries remain robust and expanding. The minute the Western countries begin to experience deeper and steeper recessions, on even depressions, the stage may become set again for a comeback for socialism and even communism. After all, that is how communism had started in the first place. Who can tell how the global economy would develop in the next few decades? Will it continue to expand and prosper or would it slump back into disarray, unemployment and severe socio-economic dislocations?

So the final chapter has yet to be written on the demise or resurrection of communism. This last chapter will be written by the leaders of the strong countries of the world, by how they treat themselves and their respective peoples and how they treat the rest of humanity.

Americans should know what Israel spends U.S. aid on

The following is a letter addressed to members of the U.S. Congress and published in the Paris-based 'Israel and Palestine Political Report' on Oct. 9.

OUT of our deep concern for the fate of our country, we — a group of Jewish Israeli citizens — feel that the time has come to address you. Since its founding, our country has been at war with its neighbours. In its isolated position and burdened with huge military expenses, it could maintain itself only thanks to foreign aid, which in the last two decades has been generously provided by the United States. In fact, due to your willingness to provide that aid to our country, Israel has become the largest recipient per capita of U.S. aid.

By virtue of this policy towards Israel, the U.S. has assumed a considerable responsibility. It is with American money that the government of Israel can pursue its policies, which regrettably include the policy of gradually annexing the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza

Strip. Such annexation is effected by setting up new settlements and creating an expanding Jewish presence in those territories. With American money, the government is able to offer Jewish settlers, native-born or newly arrived Israeli Jews, extremely generous subsidies, amounting practically to free housing, as well as other benefits. At the same time, inside Israel proper, the shortage of affordable houses for young couples and new immigrants has reached alarming proportions. Such a policy inevitably entails gross violation of the human rights of the indigenous Palestinian population of the occupied territories, whose land is expropriated so that new Jewish settlements may be established. Indeed, this policy of de facto annexation of the occupied territories lies at the root of Israel's disregard of universal declarations of human rights insofar as these territories are concerned.

All this is done openly, with the knowledge of the entire Israeli population. The United States cannot shrug off a degree

of responsibility for the way its money is used. Against the wishes of at least half of Israel's own citizens, the government maintains a policy which is detrimental to the chances for peace in our region. It can afford to do so only thanks to the continued flow of unconditional American aid. Indeed, peace initiatives — such as the one presently undertaken by Secretary of State Baker — stand no chance of success as long as the Shamir government persists in its unrealistic and irresponsible "Greater Israel" policy. This policy is directly responsible now for the daily hardships caused by a violent conflict which is being unnecessarily perpetuated, at a time when, at long last, there seems to exist a real chance to bring it to an end and start a process aimed at achieving peace. Needless to add that with the elimination of the chances for peace, the danger of another war becomes imminent.

As you know, an Israeli request will be brought before you in September of this year for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, for the purpose of absorbing the Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants in Israel. Those immigrants are, indeed in great and urgent need of help. They were brought to Israel by the government and the Jewish Agency, which exerted all its influence to prevent the Soviet Jewish emigrants from going to any other country. But while directing them towards Israel, no adequate measures were taken to ensure their proper reception, and many of them are facing exposure to hardship and poverty. Supporting these immigrants is a worthy humanitarian cause; they certainly deserve a decent life in their new homeland. But this cannot be achieved in a country torn by conflict, where the daily life of everybody is becoming increasingly insecure.

On you, members of the U.S. Congress, rests a tremendous responsibility. It is within your power to make sure that your willingness, of which we have no doubt, to extend humanitarian aid to these immigrants not be turned against the principle of "land for peace," which is the

cornerstone of the administration's peace initiative, and with which we are in full agreement. The loan guarantees requested by Israel should therefore be made conditional upon the Israeli government's acceptance of that principle. Such acceptance should be manifested by an immediate cessation of all settlement activities, namely, setting up new settlements or expanding existing ones, within the occupied territories. Unless this condition is met by the Israeli government, you could never be sure that part of the money given for the absorption of immigrants would not in fact be used to accelerate the de facto annexation of territories subject to negotiations.

We, like many other Israelis who deep in their hearts share our view, would regard the adoption of such a measure on your part as the greatest service the United States could render Israel at the present moment.

Mattiyyahu Peled, Major General (Ret), professor of Arab literature, Yossi Amitay, orientalist, Shimron Ballas, author and professor of literature, Hayim Bar-Am, journalist, Benjamin Beit Hallahmi, author, member of New Outlook Editorial Board, Avishai Elrich, professor of sociology, David Hammou, editor Iton Aher, Adam Keller, editor, the Other Israel, Peter Lemish, professor of political education; Yael Lotz, author and literary critic, Uri Maoz, professor of physics, Rubina Marton, M.D., Yehuda Melzer, professor of philosophy, publisher, Gideon Spiro, journalist, Sasha Vietman professor of sociology.

LETTERS

Where is JTV?

To the Editor:

It is not the first time and it will not be the last that we tune to other TV stations to watch news.

During the Madrid conference Jordan Television broadcast the speeches of the delegates live. And in Jordan, it interviewed analysts after every speech; when that was over, it would close down. Viewers would then tune to other TV stations to watch press conferences live and to see these TV reporters briefing and comments.

Why did not Jordan TV broadcast these press conferences live and where were JTV reporters at that time?

Why should Jordanians wait until the eight O'clock news to see the press conferences?

All the interviews JTV reporters did were with the Jordanian and the Palestinian side, what about the other delegates, the Soviets, the Americans, the Europeans, the Syrians, the Lebanese and even the Israelis?

Friday, when all Jordanians sat down to watch the peace conference and after the delegates made their closing remarks, JTV chose to broadcast a horse jumping competition in Aqaba on both channels. Horse jumping is very nice and I have nothing against it, but they could have at least spared their audience and broadcast on one channel some press conference. They could have their reporters on stand-by at the end of the session and not at ten o'clock.

And what about the King's press conference? I assume that the satellite connection was made through JTV. Why did not JTV show that live, by interrupting their programmes on Thursday or, at least, on Friday morning? JTV interrupts the ten o'clock news to broadcast a football match!

JTV has proven that they are weak in programme selections, accusing the fundamentalists, of interfering with their selection. Thank God for the video.

Then they say that they want to improve the news. I have not seen any improvement. They still take their news from the agencies. They still do not know what freedom of press means. Their news have always been old news.

Soon I hope I'll say thank God for the CNN and advise JTV to close down their station, because that will be cheaper for everybody.

Rima Jumeau

Grateful to a virtuoso

To the Editor:

The two piano recitals performed by the Greek pianist George Themeli at the Royal Cultural Centre on Oct. 28 and 29 were uniquely special. In the first place, Mr. Themeli has been for the past fifty years or so a pianist of international fame and secondly because the two programmes he performed reflected clearly that in spite of, or indeed because of, his life long visual loss he was endowed with an almost supernatural talent.

His superbly bold technique was most obvious in the breathtaking interpretations of the prestissimo of Beethoven's 'Waldstein' and in the intricacies of Chopin's 'Scherzo' and 'Sonatas'. Never during the performance could we detect the slightest hesitancy.

And, as the surviving contemporary of 'Robbiestie, Horowitz and Serkin, Mr. Themeli remains, and hopefully for many years, a master of the keyboard, whose visual loss unleashed a tremendous musical talent.

Dr. Cameran Naseeb, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

M. Kahil

Mideast tricks or treaties?

A secret plan to show that a peace process can work

By Leslie M. Gelb

The following article appeared in the New York Times on Oct. 30.

IT just doesn't seem possible that President Bush and Secretary of State Baker will wander into the historic Mideast peace conference without a supersecret game plan. Too much can go wrong too quickly with them left holding the bag of blame. The whole initiative could capsize in six months if Washington simply sat back and waited for the right conditions to ripen.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker, whatever they are telling the world to lower expectations, must have a plan. And given their preoccupation with growing Syrian military power, it is likely to be aimed principally at cooling the one conflict that could spark a new Mideast war — the hatred between Israel and Syria. The plan that fits the pattern of Bush-Baker thinking would call for three small steps to show quickly results well short of peace:

— A freeze on new Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, brought about by an enticing collage of carrots and sticks. The goal here is to prove to all early on that the process can

work.

A deal for limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, with the amount of self-rule to be set by how much Israel will swallow in one gulp.

The more autonomy the better

to help local Palestinian leaders build a power base independent of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

— An Israeli-Syrian territorial agreement on the Golan Heights and/or in Lebanon. This makes it easier for the Palestinians to make compromises on autonomy, and clear the way for Damascus to join regional talks on arms and economic development — areas of great importance to

Israel. He ends up in a tight presidential race, the Jewish vote could become very important in big states. So come fall, he must be long finished with whatever Israeli arm-twisting he has to do.

His hope, however, would be to make a freeze on settlements so attractive to Israel that little arm-twisting is necessary. He will not ask Israel to stop expanding existing settlements, just to suspend building new ones. And he will call on Arabs to reciprocate by suspending the trade boycott and the Palestinian uprising.

He would sweeten the pot for Israel with a modest package of loan guarantees to help Soviet immigrants. That would consist of \$10 billion in guarantees from the U.S. and perhaps another \$10 billion from the Germans, Japanese and others. Prime Minister Shamir will not find it easy to reject this bundle when he thinks about his own elections.

Nor should Palestinians and Israelis find step two, autonomy deal, to be beyond their reach. The could agree quickly on transforming a host of governmental functions to the Palestinians. The tricky parts will include deciding who can run in local Palestinian

elections, and what the residual policing authority of the Israeli military will be.

Steps one and two mainly help Israelis and Palestinians, the fanatics aside. Step three, diffusing Israeli-Syrian tensions, takes care of U.S. strategic interests in reducing the risks of Mideast war and curtailing the proliferation of nuclear and chemical arms and long-range missiles.

Israel will not consider returning the Golan Heights to Syria for many years. and Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker will not ask for the impossible. Instead, the U.S. will look for gestures. One might be to take a silver of the heights and put it under U.S. control.

Another might be to arrange partial withdrawals of Syrian and Israeli forces from Lebanon as local militias are disbanded.

What is most attractive about the likely U.S. plan is that it requires neither political miracles nor serious military risks. Neither Prime Minister Shamir nor Mr. Baker has to reverse basic policies. This plan would not trick the parties into dangerous illusions of peace, but convince all but the fanatics that a peace process just might work.

Let's stop being lazy!

By Sana Atiyeh

In the morning of the opening of the Madrid peace conference, Wednesday, the entire region — with its people and leaders — were most probably concentrating on the historic event. For the first time we witnessed an official gathering of foes sitting at the same table to initiate a dialogue for a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

There is no doubt that His Majesty King Hussein, who had been advocating peaceful negotiations for decades, had his mind busy with the event. What was surprising was that he still had the time to worry about a little girl whose medicine was lost or delayed in the mail from the United States, and a school which was asking proper ventilation. The king called a radio phone-in programme after hearing complaints that the child's medicine was delayed in the mail and that school children were complaining of bad ventilation in the already congested classrooms.

Imagine! The King had to all to make sure that daily tasks of our everyday lives work properly. With all the local and international political issues that His Majesty is busy with, and all the problems that have to be solved which will determine our destiny as a people and a nation, there was

still need for him to make sure that simple matters were worked out.

Shame on us. I don't understand how we could be so inefficient and put ourselves in such a position where our already-burdened King feels the necessity to interfere with matters that should not take his effort or time. Is it possible that our institutions cannot manage the details of our daily lives without being forced to do so?

Why don't things just work out the way they should with everybody doing his or her job properly? Why don't our government departments make sure that all the facilities and services to the people are available without having someone with prominence interject? Why does it need the King himself to inquire about snags in our postal system or schools?

The people concerned in these departments, be they the education, health or any other, just have to do their job properly by making sure that no one has room for complaints. The head of the schools department went on an inspection of schools when the King made his remarks over the airwaves. The head of the postal department took interest in the case of the delayed medicine after our leader inquired about it.

Things really should not work this way. If these officials

were doing their jobs as they should, His Majesty would not have had to make the phone call on such a critical day.

This also includes the private sector. King Hussein once made a similar call inquiring about baby milk formula. Isomil, which the agent stopped importing, perhaps for business of financial reasons. Parents with babies allergic to cow milk formula know that Isomil is necessary as a substitute. But the local agent did not feel that this was good reason to warn against importing the milk. So our Monarch felt he had to ensure that the milk was available to the babies, and used his own time, effort and authority to bring in a large shipment of this baby milk.

It is high time we stopped being lazy and started working with our hearts and minds to produce a healthy and productive society. It is high time we make our own decisions and take our own initiatives that serve the people of this country. And it is high time to leave King Hussein to work out the broader political issues and not give him any reason to waste his time on matters that should be done properly in the first place. It is time we depend on ourselves and learn to be good human beings without having our leader remind us of our too-often missing humanity. It is time we stop being dependent.

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By Daoud Kuffab

MADRID — If anything, the speech of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference represented the spirit of the intifada both in its style, content and in the manner in which the final draft was reached.

The Palestinian delegation and their friends from outside the conference halls worked hard to reach resolution on the best way to handle the drafting of its contents. Problems within the delegation and from within the PLO developed as to the language of speech. Some wanted it in Arabic so as to impress on the Arab nature of Palestine and with the aim of speaking to the Arab people and especially the Palestinians. Others wanted the opposite. That the language should be in English so as to reach the international community. After much debate it was resolved that it will be read in English with the provision

that a short introduction will be made in Arabic.

Differences also surfaced over the style. One draft was written by poet Mahmoud Darwish but it was impossible to keep the music and spirit of the intifada both in its style, content and in the manner in which the final draft was reached.

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In the end it was agreed that the spirit and basic text of Mrs. Ashrawi will prevail and that additions can be made to it. The spirit of the intifada prevailed in the harmony that was excelled during this mixture and the goings and comings between the writers of the leaflets and the writers of the

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the speech had the relative freedom of the Spanish country and the ability to consult and work with others both politicians and experts without fear of reprisal or arrest or even killing.

Creativity was needed to deal with issues like the Palestinian relationship with the PLO. The Palestinian delegation didn't want to make provocative acts just for the sake of provocation. But the Palestinians didn't want at the same time to be censored or have their speech edited by anyone. They wanted the speech to reflect the pain, the pride and the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

By and large that has happened. Creativity and team work were the hallmarks of the

Shamir — today's prime minister, yesterday's terrorist'

By Jack Redden
Reuter

RUSALEM — The British government once tried to hunt down Yitzhak Shamir. Now it offers him on the future of the Middle East.

The United States, which will talk to PLO chief Yasser Arafat because of his role in terrorism," gives Mr. Shamir's government \$3 billion a year in grants.

Syrian Foreign Minister Fou Al Sharra waved an old, tattered "wanted" poster with the face of a 32-year-old Mr. Shamir at the Madrid talks on Friday, saying "it was distributed because he was ... a terrorist."

But Mr. Shamir is far from being among world leaders in a violent past — particularly in the Middle East.

Syrian President Hafez Assad came to power through coups and shed the blood of his fellow citizens. The West politely ignores Mr. Assad's past, as it does with leaders of many countries which struggled against colonialism.

Mr. Shamir's record as one of the triumvirate running the group down to the world as the "Stern Gang" included actions which shocked even other Jewish guerrillas. The group was born during

World War II, when Britain, which ruled Palestine, was fighting a life-or-death struggle with Nazi Germany and the Nazis were attempting to exterminate European Jewry.

The Stern Gang kept fighting Britain.

Among its most sensational acts were the 1944 assassination of Lord Moyne, British minister of state for the Middle East, and the gunning down in 1948 of Swedish Count Bernadotte,联合国 Nations peace mediator.

Mr. Shamir joined the Irgun underground soon after arriving in Palestine from Poland in 1935. The Irgun, already more extreme than the mainstream Jewish underground, split in 1940 over a proposal for a ceasefire with the British authorities.

Avraham Stern led the breakaway group and when he was killed by British police in 1942, the triumvirate that included Mr. Shamir took charge until after Israel was established in 1948.

The group — officially called the Lohamei Herut Israel, Fighters for the Freedom of Israel — conducted assassinations and bombings against police stations, trains and government installations. In 1947 it mailed bombs to British politicians outside Palestine.

The group had a key role in the 1948 attack on the Arab village of

Dier Yassin near Jerusalem, where at least 120 civilians, including women and children, were cut down.

Fear of massacres was a major factor in Arab villagers fleeing Jewish forces during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War — the start of a Palestinian refugee problem that remains unsolved more than four decades later.

Mr. Shamir has never regretted his past. In September he told an interviewer he was justified using "personal terror" against his enemies because his goal was just.

He is not the first former "terrorist" to lead Israel. He succeeded Menachem Begin, who led Irgun forces in the underground war against British authorities.

Mr. Begin, who had a 10,000 pound sterling price on his head, completed his transformation to world acceptance by sharing the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize with Egypt's Anwar Sadat for signing Israel's first peace treaty with an Arab country.

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Baker

(Continued from page 1)

matters of procedure and modalities are to the involved parties as "very big issues" precisely because the parties are taking risks "in their own eyes and in the eyes of their public."

Predictably, the secretary refused to characterise the speeches given by the Arab and Israeli delegations at the opening session of the conference, but reiterated his disappointment at the parties for having "neglected the human dimension of the problem" — something Washington had expected, given the enormous publicity surrounding the opening ceremony.

"We said for weeks before the conference we expected the parties to come here to stake out their maximalist positions in advance of negotiations ... you should not expect the parties to come to a public forum like that and make unilateral concessions as indeed they didn't," Mr. Baker said.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat displayed a map that charted the boundaries of a "greater Israel" desired by Mr. Shamir. It included Jordan, Lebanon, a third of Syria, most of Iraq and half of Sinai.

Mr. Arafat said that the financial losses of Palestinians expelled from Kuwait due to widespread Palestinian support for Iraq during the Gulf war had amounted to \$12 billion.

More than 2,500 Palestinians have gone missing since the war ended, and 12,000 Palestinians and 2,000 other Arabs remain in Kuwaiti jails, Mr. Arafat said.

Dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

said. "So the sooner we put an end to the charade, the better."

Mr. Abu Sharif said the planned meeting among Arab negotiators was necessary to assess their positions "in view of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's outright rejection of United Nations resolutions."

The making of a historic speech

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By and large that has happened. Creativity and team work were the hallmarks of the

speech. In addition to Mrs. Ashrawi, Mr. Abdul Shafiq, Mr. Nabil Shaat and Mr. Hussein were involved in one way or another in contributing to the speech. A senior member of the Palestinian delegation, Dr. Mamoun Al Aker, a close confidant of both Mr. Hussein and Mrs. Ashrawi and a university mate of George Habash and some of the top Palestinian leaders, was a key figure in coordinating the various changes and translations, and amendments. At times he would argue with the senior leaders and with members of the delegation with the purpose of reaching an acceptable compromise that kept in the spirit of Mrs. Ashrawi's original text with the various additions that other Palestinians wanted.

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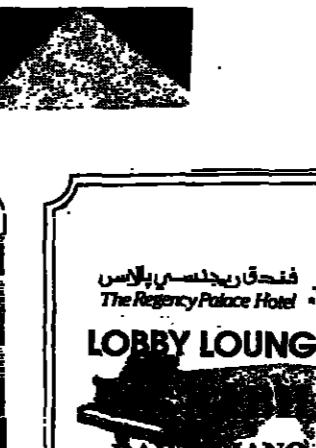
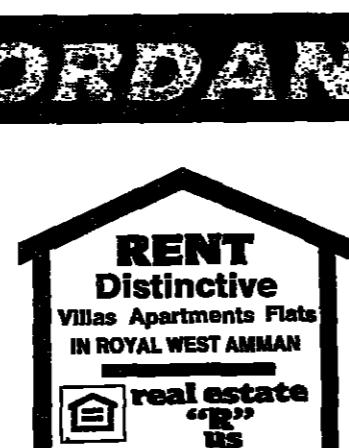
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Senna calls for drivers' safety views to be heard

ADELAIDE (R) — World champion Ayrton Senna called for drivers' views on safety to be heard and heeded after winning Sunday's controversial Australian Grand Prix, reduced to 14 laps by torrential rain.

Senna was declared the winner after the race was abandoned with cars slogging and crashing all over the Adelaide Street Circuit, and immediately called on FISA (the International Motor Sport Association) to review its safety rules.

The newly-crowned triple world drivers' champion, who had warned before the start that the atrocious conditions were not safe, said drivers needed to be able to contribute to a neutral body to form new rules and regulations.

The McLaren driver said: "We have to establish a group which is neutral and balanced and which can help make for much safer conditions in future."

British Nigel Mansell, driving a Williams, was classified second in the official results of the 14-lap race after he had crashed on his 16th lap. He left the circuit with an injured left ankle and suspected concussion.

Austrian Gerhard Berger in the second McLaren finished third to tie up the Constructors' World Championship for the Anglo-Japanese team for the fourth consecutive year.

Arazi's dazzling run highlights Breeders' Cup

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (R) — A horse racing superstar was born on the stretch at Churchill Downs Saturday as two-year-old Arazi blew past a Breeders' Cup field of the best U.S. juveniles with such ease he was compared to the sport's greatest.

Racing at Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby, Arazi's move was so dramatically powerful that as he brought the horse in after the race, jockey Pat Valenzuela shouted to the crowd: "Derby winner 1992."

If Valenzuela is right, Arazi would become the first European-based horse to win the world's most famous U.S. horse race.

Fittingly, the bouncy chestnut leaped to prominence on a day of firsts and a day of upsets at the eighth Breeders' Cup, a \$10-million series of races run on a chilly, bright day in front of 66,000 fans.

Sheikh Albadou became the first European to win a Breeders' Cup dirt race by charging from behind to grab the sprint.

Dance Smartly became the first Canadian bred to win a cup race with an easy victory in the distaff.

Opening Verse became the first U.S. horse to win the mile since 1985.

Black Tie Affair became the first won-derby winner to take the classic in five years with a wire-to-wire dash.

And for the first time, there were three European winners in a series that has become more international each year.

The upsets were reflected on the tote board as Sheikh Albadou paid \$54.60 for a \$2 bet in the

Senna clinched the drivers' title when he finished second in the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka two weeks ago.

Senna's views on looking at ways of avoiding any further dangerous races in heavy rain gained the support of Berger after the shortest race in Formula One history.

Berger said: "Something must be done. It is very frustrating to come and race here in 1989 in the terrible conditions then in the rain and now to have done it again."

Senna, who said his car at times "floated on the water — out of control" during the race, said: "We really have to think about this."

"We must go away from here and think of a new set of rules or a structure to give us stability and power in a balanced manner."

"There are some points we really must modify to get things sorted out or there just won't be a race. We need to set up some system."

"We need a new kind of policy from FISA where we can have some people in a group which is neutral to make things safer."

"We need to do it and we need to get the total support of the drivers and to get recognition from the organisers and the governing body."

Senna's win Sunday was a hollow one achieved in conditions which made the race a lottery and which left the Australian public at the circuit both soaked and disappointed.

Italian veteran Riccardo Patrese, who finished fifth for Williams behind Brazilian Nelson Piquet in a Benetton and ahead of Italian Gianni Morbidelli, in a Ferrari, supported Senna's views.

He said: "I am very sorry for the Australian public and the organisers for how this race ended."

"I think the race should never have been started because these conditions were worse than in 1989 as then they waited a little longer for the rain to clear up. You can see what happens when you are made to race in these conditions."

Senna had consulted with officials before the race and warned that it was not safe to drive, but agreed to go ahead and "try to make a race of it."

Mansell said he may have broken a bone in his foot after crashing out of the Grand Prix.

"The car just snapped out of control and went into the wall," said Mansell, dazed and limping badly. His Williams crashed out of the race in the 16th lap shortly before it was halted.

"It spun time and time again and threw me straight into the wall. It was big hit," said the 38-year-old Briton.

Mansell had been running a close second behind Senna.

Asked if he thought the race should have been stopped sooner, Mansell said: "I can't say any more. You judge for yourself."

The Australian Grand Prix was a sad farewell to Formula One motor racing for Japan's Satoru Nakajima, whose last race ended with a spin in the atrocious conditions.

"In the past I have always been lucky in the rain. I didn't want to end my career on this note," said a dejected Nakajima, who lost control of his Tyrrell on the fifth lap in torrential rain.

It was disappointing, too, for the hundreds of Japanese fans and journalists who had turned out in Adelaide to say goodbye to their favourite son after he announced in July his intention to retire at the end of the season.

Ironically, it was on a similar rain-swept track here in 1989 that Nakajima gave his best Formula One performance, setting the fastest lap as he sliced his way through the field in his Lotus to fourth.

He eliminated all doubts.

Brazi fell 15 lengths off the pace at one point. But then he put on a charge that sent chills through racing fans.

The small colt turned on the speed to weave through the field, grabbing the lead and pulling away on what appeared to be instincts alone, without any urging from his jockey, who said he was holding the horse back the last 60 yards of the race.

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Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 28-November 1, 1991)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit seemed to have entered a transitory phase last week as market participants started to reassess their forecasts of the U.S. economic recovery. A set of negative U.S. economic reports triggered a series of sharp dollar drops, before the U.S. currency ended the week an average of 3.19 per cent lower against European currencies and 1.34 per cent lower against the yen.

The U.S. unit started at its highest closing levels for the week Monday, due to short covering ahead of the release of third quarter GNP figures Tuesday. Observers maintained that exchange rates had come to reflect expectations of a annualized GNP growth rate for the third quarter of 2.5% to 3% in line with the treasury secretary's comments over the weekend. This provided support to the dollar in spite of remarks by the Fed Chairman about the slowness of the U.S. economic recovery and the possibility of a discount rate cut. The election of Kiichi Miyazawa as the new Japanese prime minister intensified expectations of Japanese interest rate decline, reflecting favourably on the dollar, which closed at 1.7179 marks, 1.6940 dollars to the pound sterling and 132.52 yen to the dollar.

The dollar started its sharp descent Tuesday following a consumer survey report showing consumer confidence had eroded to a recessionary level of 60.4% in October, compared to 72.9% the previous month. The report came as a confirmation of the negative picture painted by Fed remarks the previous day. Third quarter GNP in the U.S., on the other hand, stood at 2.4% compared to expectations of 2.5-3%. Market participants therefore started to attach even greater significance to October's employment data, expected Friday, to provide clues as to the medium term direction of dollar exchange rates.

The U.S. currency continued to drop against European currencies Wednesday in the wake of signs that the Fed was trying to push the Fed funds rate by 0.25% lower to 5%, through open market operations. Analysts were unclear, however, about the precise nature and implications of this move. Some attributed it to purely technical motives, while others considered it a prelude to a discount rate cut Friday if the employment figures prove unfavourable. The yen's weakness against the mark kept it from rising against the dollar.

While trading remained subdued Thursday, Friday witnessed another sharp drop in dollar exchange rates, taking it to its lowest closing levels of the week. Non-farm payrolls dropped by 1,000 in October, manufacturing jobs declined by 65,000 and the unemployment rate rose by 0.1% to 6.8%. Although the dollar's drop was limited at first, in the absence of the widely expected discount rate cut, a state of pessimism and agitation nevertheless overshadowed the market preserving expectations of such a move taking place next week. The sharp drop occurred after the dollar breached support at 1.6550 marks, which triggered a wave of dollar selling.

As for this week, a number of analysts maintained that the dollar was not oversold yet, and that the possibility of a further decline to 1.63 marks cannot be ruled out.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	25/10/1991 Close	1/11/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.7130	1.7675	3.16%
Deutsche Mark	1.6999	1.6445	3.57%
Swiss Franc	1.4875	1.4435	3.04%
French Franc	5.6010	5.6235	3.16%
Japanese Yen	131.49	129.75	1.34%

Euro-Currency Interest Rates				
Currency	25/10/1991		1/11/1991	
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.56	4.95	5.18
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.25	10.31	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.37	8.95	9.25
Swiss Franc	8.00	8.25	7.87	8.18
French Franc	8.87	9.18	8.93	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.53	5.75	6.21	5.65

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 3/11/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.684	0.686
Sterling Pound	1.2080	1.2140
Deutsche Mark	0.4156	0.4177
Swiss Franc	0.4733	0.4757
French Franc	0.1216	0.1222
Japanese Yen*	0.5269	0.5295
Dutch Guilder	0.3690	0.3708
Swedish Krona	0.1128	0.1134
Italian Lira*	0.0555	0.0558
Belgian Franc	0.02017	0.02027

*Per 100

Statistics show overall fuel efficiency down in 1992 cars

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fuel efficiency in 1992 cars is down from last year's models, the sixth consecutive year with little or no reduction in new automobiles' appetite for gasoline, the government has reported.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) annual fuel economy statistics covering about 1,000 cars, the 1992 models — both domestic and imports — show an overall average of 27.5 miles (44.25 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

The industry bitterly opposes the bill and contends only minor improvements are possible that quickly.

But industry critics say automakers can reach the bill's target using currently available technology.

A spokesman for the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, a trade group representing the big three U.S. automakers, said it would have no immediate comment on the EPA report.

Four of the 10 best performing cars were variations of the Geo, a Japanese-made minicompact sold through General Motors. Four others were versions of the Honda Civic and the remaining two were versions of the Suzuki Swift.

All get at least 39 miles (62.7 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) or better, but they were rare exceptions. Topping the list was the one-litre minicompact Geo Metro XFI, which gets 53 miles (85.3 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) in city driving and 58 miles (93.3 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

At the other extreme were the Lamborghini, five Rolls Royce models, two versions of the Aston Martin Virage saloon, the Ferrari Testarossa, and the Ferrari F40. None did better than 12 miles (19.3 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) in the city or 17 miles (27.3 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

Bringing up the rear was the luxurious two-seater Lamborghini Diablo, which gets nine miles (14.5 kilometres) per gallon (3.8 litres) on the highway.

Gulf war, loan debut hurt Kuwaiti hopes on risk rating

ZURICH (R) — The Gulf war and a successful debut on international capital markets last month have set back Kuwait's attempts to win an upgrading of its country risk weighting, monetary sources have said.

Banks lending to Kuwait must set aside an amount equivalent to eight per cent of their loans to the emirate because the country carries a 100 per cent risk weighting, according to Basle committee on banking supervision guidelines.

"Kuwait's case (for a weighting review) has not been helped by the Gulf war," a highly-placed monetary source said. "And the oversubscription of Kuwait's loan and its pricing show Kuwait is not suffering excessively for its higher country risk."

Kuwait's \$5 billion syndicated loan last month was oversubscribed to \$6 billion and was

priced at 50 basis points over London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

A \$4.5 billion issue by Saudi Arabia in May was priced at 37.5 points over LIBOR.

Kuwait and other Middle Eastern countries have lobbied the central banks of various Group of 10 (G-10) top industrialized nations for a review of their risk weighting since the Basle committee first proposed guidelines to harmonize banking capital standards in 1988.

Middle Eastern countries are particularly aggrieved that they do not enjoy the much lower risk weighting of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) states.

Banks are not required to back loans to OECD countries with

the full eight per cent.

Saudi Arabia, although not a member of OECD, was awarded the rating because of its good record in supplying funds to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The decision by the Basle committee not to give Kuwait and other Middle Eastern countries an OECD risk weighting was a political judgement made at the time and the Gulf war has proved the point," the source said.

"Kuwait and the Middle East are simply not as politically stable as OECD countries," he pointed out.

He said the reluctance of British banks to participate in the loan reflected their own estimation of Kuwait as a borrowing risk.

"But the evidence so far does not show this," he said.

with the full eight per cent.

The Basle capital standards take effect in January 1993 but banks are bringing capital ratios into line in advance.

Before the Gulf war, when the oil-rich emirate had no need to borrow on international capital markets, the risk weighting was a matter of prestige, the source said.

But the issue has become more acute since war damage cut oil exports and revenue to a trickle and forced the country to find funds abroad for reconstruction.

The source said that if Kuwait found in future that its country risk weighting was costing it higher borrowing margins, there might be a case for a review of its rating.

"But the evidence so far does not show this," he said.

Push for faster growth spurs environment fears for World Bank

WASHINGTON (R) — As nations from Mexico to the Soviet Union scramble to enjoy the fruits of capitalism, the World Bank faces the tough task of trying to ensure the environment is not damaged in the process.

Largely at the prodding of outside pressure groups, the bank has moved in recent years to pay more attention to environmental concerns in mapping out economic strategies for the developing world.

But environmentalists say it has not gone far enough.

"They have not fundamentally transformed the nature of their operations," said Christopher

Flavin, vice president at World Bank watch Institute. "The bulk of their lending still goes into large capital-intensive, industrial projects."

Critics charge those loans —

for everything from dams to

mineral projects — have hurt the environment and argue the bank's policies for promoting economic growth in the developing world won't work in the long-term.

"The World Bank... lacks a

coherent vision of a sustainable

economy and thus its lending

priorities often run counter to the

goal of creating one," Mr. Flavin

and fellow institute vice president Sandra Postel wrote recently.

Thailand has enjoyed an economic boom in recent years but the activists question just how many people have benefited.

They say that behind the boom comes a "record of widespread suffering, ecological degradation, economic injustice, human rights violations and social conflict."

Over the past few years, the World Bank has significantly increased its number of loans devoted mainly to the protection of the environment. But those credits are still a small percentage of the \$20 billion it hands out each year.

Most of the genuine tourists are ethnic Chinese from Hong Kong, Taiwan and other countries visiting relatives. Big-spending Western tour groups are conspicuously few.

Xinhua said the 12 tour guides who were fired had variously worked for six different tour agencies, including the Peking branch of China International Travel Service, the country's leading tour operator. They were accused of receiving kickbacks for bringing tour groups to certain places, embezzling funds and organising tour groups without government permission.

Reed toils to correct Citicorp's 'errors'

NEW YORK (R) — Citicorp, the largest U.S. bank, is unlikely to reinstate its common dividend until 1993, its chairman John Reed has said, showing the long, uphill struggle facing the battered banking industry.

Citicorp omitted its common stock dividend after reporting a loss of \$885 million for the third quarter.

The dividend suspension was the first in the bank's 179-year history, a fact Citicorp said proved how serious the bank was in turning itself around.

Mr. Reed said he was working hard to correct the bank's "errors": Third World loan problems, "paying a big price to get into the consumer business," souring real estate loans and loans in Australia.

And he admitted the problems faced by the giant bank are not due to its size, but largely due to human error.

Time Warner reports \$62 million loss

NEW YORK (R) — Time Warner Inc., the huge entertainment and media company, has reported a third-quarter loss of \$62 million as massive debts wiped out underlying earnings of more than \$500 million.

The loss equalled \$2.66 a share, an improvement from a year earlier when the company was \$91 million in the red with an earnings-per-share loss of \$4.05.

Revenues for the latest period were \$2.94 billion, up from \$2.90

billion a year ago.

Time Warner also lost \$144 million for the first nine months of 1991, or \$8.99 a share, down from a loss of \$193 million or \$10.59 a share, a year earlier.

Time Warner Chairman Steven Ross said the losses masked record quarterly performances in some business areas.

"We are pleased that despite continuing softness in the world economy three of our businesses

incurred when Time Inc. and Warner Communications Inc merged to create the world's leading media company in 1989.

In a bid to cut its debt, the company raised \$2.6 billion this summer in a common stock offering. It has also entered talks with Toshiba Corp and C. Itoh Co. of Japan on what some speculate will be a \$1 billion investment in the company.

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